

Abstract of the Disclosure

A scanning optical system includes a light source that emits a plurality of beams, a deflector disposed on optical paths of the beams emitted from light source, which deflector deflects the beams toward an object surface so that beam spots formed by the beams scan on the object surface in a main scanning direction, and a birefringent double-image member disposed on the optical paths of the beams. The birefringent double-image member splits each of the beams passing therethrough into an ordinary ray and an extraordinary ray that is displaced from the ordinary ray in an auxiliary scanning direction and travels in a vicinity of the ordinary ray. Note that the auxiliary scanning direction is a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction.